(Second Draft)

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July 14, 1984

Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Unit
Federal Bureau of Investigation
9th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Legal Department
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles Office
11000 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Dear Sirs:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act as amended (5 U.S.C. 552).

We request a complete and thorough search of all filing systems and locations for all FBI Headquarters and Los Angeles field office records maintained by the FBI pertaining to the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and investigative activities related thereto, including but not limited to files and documents captioned in, or whose captions include the names of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan or Robert Francis Kennedy, or logical variants thereof, in the title. This request specifically includes "main" files and "see references," including but not limited to numbered and lettered subfiles, 1A envelopes, enclosures behind files (EBFs), Bulky Exhibits, control files, ticklers, agent interview notes, abstracts, index cards and "JUNE" files. We ask that all records be produced with the administrative markings and all reports include the administrative pages.

This request includes all original or duplicate photographs relating to the case, all newsclips or media intercepts, and all original or duplicate sound recordings in existence, particularly ones from the period of the actual shooting. It also includes the 10-volume report of the police investigative unit known as "Special Unit-Senator" and all records in any way pertaining thereto. We request all records of D.C. Headquarters and of the Los Angeles field office regardless of whether they have been previously processed for us or any other requester.

We wish to be sent copies of "see reference" cards, abstracts, search slips, including search slips used to process this request, file covers, multiple copies of the same document if they contain notations distinguishing them from other copies, and tapes of any electronic surveillances. Please search "DO NOT FILE" files, SAC safes, special file rooms, and offices of FBI officials. We want all pages released regardless of the extent of excising, even if all that remains are the stationery headings or administrative markings.

In addition to a search of the General Index, please search the ELSUR Indices and any special case index.

We request, as well, that the names of the FBI Special Agents (and other personnel) involved in the investigation not be routinely deleted in the documents provided, absent specific facts showing that there is serious threat of danger or personal jeopardy which would result from such disclosure. This matter is particularly significant as the reports of some law enforcement personnel in this case, as well as relevant FBI documents hitherto known of are at odds with the standard official interpretation of central issues of the case. It should be noted in this connection that the Warren Commission released thousands of documents concerning the assassination of President Kennedy, a comparable situation, without ever deleting the names of the investigating agents involved. Moreover, prior disclosure has already occurred (examples available) of the names of several FBI Special Agents and of their activities on the case in published accounts and in material released by the Los Angeles District Attorney's office, with no adverse results.

We wish to make it clear that we ask for all records in the Headquarters and Los Angeles field office "identifiable with our request" even though reports based on those records have been sent to FBI Headquarters and even though there may be duplication between the two sets of files. FOIA provides that if only portions of a file are exempted from release, the remainder must be released. We therefore request that we be provided with all non-exempt portions which are reasonably segregable, and we reserve the right to appeal the withholding of any information.

Please search for records under the following names: Robert Frances Kennedy, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, Adel Sirhan, Bishara Sirhan, Mary Sirhan, Munir ("Joe") Sirhan, Saidallah Sirhan, Sharif Sirhan, William Joseph Bryan, Jr., Thane Eugene Cesar, John Fahey, William Gardner, Robert Gindroz, Stanley Kawalec, Jack Merritt, Oliver B. ("Jerry" or "Curly") Owen, Henry Donald Ramistella (aka Frank Donnarauma), Thomas Rathke, Donald Schulman, Paul Sharaga, Edward Van Antwerp, Michael Wayne, Claudia Williams, Roland Glen Williams, Ace Guard (or Ace-Guard) Service (Los Angeles area), Ambassador Hotel, Rosicrucians (Ancient Mystical Order of Rosae Crucis), or logical variants thereof. All of these references denote major figures or entities in this case, or are the subject of unresolved issues which have been raised concerning it.

Please place any "missing" files pertaining to this request on "special locate" and advise us that you have done this.

We believe that this request qualifies for a waiver of fees since the release of the requested information would primarily benefit the general public and would be "in the public interest." The Robert Kennedy assassination was clearly a major public tragedy, but in comparison with other comparable assassination cases, relatively little official information concerning it has come to light. In consequence of this fact, and of grave problems and unanswered questions in the present evidence, the case has been a matter of repeated intense public interest and controversy with central issues and basic facts remaining in doubt.

One of the requesters, Gregory Stone, has been active on aspects of this case, since 1974. During much of that time, he worked closely on these questions with the late U.S. congressman and ambassador Allard K. Lowenstein, worked on relevant articles and presentations, and drafted with him a manuscript of over 250 pages detailing cnetral issues of this case. He is interested in the possibility of publication of a revised version of this manuscript, as well as of other possible publication on related issues. He has recently been active in pursuing additional official and non-official sources of information in the case, working with others of similar concern, and sponsored an academic project in this area last January and has pursued other related academic efforts. He has a master's degree in political science at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and was co-editor of a book published in 1983 which touched in part on these issues.

The second requester, Philip H. Melanson, is a professor of political science at Southeastern Massachussetts University and is a recognized expert in the area of American political assassinations, as evidenced by his teaching of University-level courses on the topic, publication of scholarly books and articles (including a forthcoming book on the problems of protecting American political leaders), and public lectures. He has recently been active in securing major archival acquisitions in the areas of assassination and political violence for the pernament collections at the University Library, to be made available for scholarly research. (See attachments partially documenting background of each requester.)

This waiver is requested on the grounds that this FOIA request primarily benefits the general public and is not for commercial purposes. Given the interest in the requested materials on the part of historians, political scientists, college students and large segments of the general public, it would be unfair that the requesters bear the full cost of obtaining these materials, which are so vital to historical understanding of a major national tragedy. Neither requester has the personal means to adequately finance a release of public documents on the scale anticipated at his own expense. Gregory Stone is currently a graduate student receiving financial aid, and Philip Melanson has no institutional resources to draw upon and is restricted to limited personal means.

If a fee waiver is not granted, please consult us before proceeding if the fee is in excess of $100.00. We reserve all rights to recover any money paid for fees not waived.

Please send a memo (copy to us) to the appropriate units in your office to assure that no records related to this request are destroyed. Please advise of any destruction of records and include the date of and authority for such destruction.

We can be reached at (or through) the second address listed above. Please write if there are any questions or if you need additional information from us.

We ask a response to this request as expeditiously as possible, and consistent with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

Gregory Stone

Philip H. Melanson